

We will take this occasion to say a final word as to the scope of the JOURNAL. The field we have especially in view is that of the nervous system, not only on its own account, but that of its relations to the body, of which it forms a part, on the one hand, and to the mind and mental action on the other. It is not our intention to produce a Journal of Insanity. We leave this more restricted and important field to other journals. In our own country it is already occupied, with marked ability, by the *American Journal of Insanity*, now so well known, not alone to the profession in the United States but also in other lands. But we do not expect to neglect mental diseases, clearly arising out of organic nervous disease.

Everything of real interest, especially if new, that will throw any light on the anatomy, physiology, pathology, or therapeutics of the nervous system, in its various relations, whether medical or legal, is to be included within the scope of our JOURNAL.

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THE ALCOHOL QUESTION.—Whatever may be thought of some of the methods recently employed to further the cause of temperance in the use of alcoholic drinks, there can be no question that the time has fully come for the thorough discussion, not alone of the social evils arising out of an intemperate use of alcoholic beverages, but of their true physiological action, both in health and disease.

There can be no question but intemperance, in the sense of this term as ordinarily employed, is one of the most, if not the most, prolific sources of disease of various kinds, especially nervous and mental, whether hereditary or acquired, known among civilized men. And at present the evil seems to be on the increase.

It is peculiarly incumbent on the medical profession to discuss the questions involved, from scientific as well as practical standpoints, because no class in the community sustains such relations to this whole matter of intemperance as the medical profession. As a class, they alone have the means and oppor-

tunity of a scientific study of its real effects on the body and mind, and hence, not only of determining how much value it has as a beverage and medicinal agent, but in what way, and to what extent, it is injurious. The results of such a study are not only required to guide rational reform, whether legislative or otherwise, but to guide physicians themselves in prescribing the use of alcoholics as medicinal agents; because, however useful as a pharmaceutical or remedial agent alcohol may be, we are deeply impressed with a belief that incalculable remote, if not immediate, harm, is often done by carelessly prescribing its use in many cases; and the profession, as a whole, seems to be awakening to a sense of its responsibility in this direction. The question as to its real action and therapeutic value, is now, almost for a wonder, beginning to attract great general attention in Great Britain and on the Continent, especially in France. Symptoms of this same awakening begin to appear in our own country; but we cannot discuss any of the questions involved now.

At an early period in the progress of our JOURNAL we propose to discuss especially those phases of the action of alcohol which relate to the nervous system and mind, whether for good or ill; and if we mistake not, future investigations will develop that a larger share of nervous and mental diseases than many have suspected must be at least attributed to the abuse of alcoholics.

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NECROLOGY.—We have to notice, in this issue of the JOURNAL, the death of the distinguished English alienist physician, Dr. Forbes Winslow, which occurred at Brighton, England, on the third of March last. The cause of his death was granular disease of the kidneys, the symptoms of which developed very suddenly and carried him off, after altogether less than a month's sickness.

Dr. Winslow is known to our readers by his numerous writings on subjects connected with psychological medicine, the department which he specially cultivated, and in which he attained his eminence. His best known work, "On Obscure Dis-